Joseph Rotblat
Founding the Pugwash Movement

Kit Hill
British Pugwash and author, “Professor Pugwash”

Sandra Ionno Butcher
Pugwash History Project

BSHS, Exeter, July 2011
Hiroshima 1945

Nagasaki
1955: News of his family – after 6 years

Jo’s mother, his two brothers, and other members of the family survived the war, eventually coming to join him in England.

But his wife, Tola, had died in the Nazi extermination camp at Majdanek.
1946

Rotblat Co-founds
Atomic Scientists Association
1946-47

Nuclear Physics Sub-committee of
Cabinet Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy
1949 (delayed to 1950)

Professor of Physics
as Applied to Medicine
St Bart’s Hospital
Medical School
“The sky in the west suddenly lit up and the sea became brighter than day... We watched the dazzling light, which felt heavy.”

Lucky Dragon crew member
Yoshio Misaki
(Delayed until) March 1955

“The Hydrogen-Uranium Bomb”
J Rotblat

Atomic Scientists Journal
April 13, 1954
Begin to educate the British public on the new hydrogen bomb
The two stay in close contact over the years
Man’s Peril, 1954

“I appeal, as a human being to human beings: remember your humanity, and forget the rest.”

Bertrand Russell

6 to 7 million people heard the broadcast
Russell Writes Einstein

February 11, 1955
“[T]he last message from the man who was the symbol of the great heights the human intellect can reach, imploring us not to let all this be destroyed by human folly.”

-- Joseph Rotblat
The Russell-Einstein Manifesto (extract):

In the tragic situation which confronts humanity, we feel that scientists should assemble in conference to appraise the perils that have arisen as a result of the development of weapons of mass destruction.
Russell Einstein Manifesto: 9 July 1955
Caxton Hall, London
Rotblat chairing
A New Role for Scientists?

“[T]he idea that scientists should take an active part in world affairs was evidently approved by public opinion.”

Joseph Rotblat

Statement Signed By Einstein and 7 Others Is Released By Bertrand Russell

(Complete Text: Page A-14.)

LONDON, July 9—The late Albert Einstein and seven other eminent scientists said in a joint appeal published today that mankind must abolish war or face the risk of extinction by “slow torture” from radioactive dust and rain.

Nine Noted Scientists Urge War Ban

Warning on Nuclear Peril Was Signed by Einstein

By Peter B. Whitney

LONDON, July 9—Nine eminent scientists, including the late Albert Einstein, have appealed to the nations to discover war because it is for the benefit of mankind. Bertrand Russell, British mathematician and philosopher, has helped to initiate the appeal. Bertrand Russell died two days ago. The appeal called on the nations to end war because it is for the benefit of mankind. The appeal was signed by seven other physicists, including Sir William Bragg, Sir James Jeans, and Lord Rutherford.

As Members of a Species

One cannot deny that Bertrand Russell, the late Albert Einstein and seven other thinkers and philosophers were expressing what might be called a global patriotism when they signed the statement on nuclear warfare released by Lord Russell on Saturday. They were hon-
July 13, 1955
TransAtlantic
Air Mail

My Lord:
Your brilliant statement on nuclear warfare has made a dramatic world-wide impact. …
Could I help toward the realization of your proposal by anonymously financing a meeting of the scientists in your group at Pugwash, Nova Scotia? I have dedicated a comfortably equipped residence there by the sea to scholarly groups….
CAPTAIN PUGWASH

A Pirate Story by John Ryan
Courage

the “McCarthy witch hunt was still in the air. … For many American scientists, participation in the Conference might have spelled the end of their professional career …

It was only a fearless person like Cyrus Eaton, who broke the taboo, and made the Conference possible.”

--Joseph Rotblat
“I came here with hope, but also prepared that it was going to be a complete fiasco.”  Joseph Rotblat
Joseph Rotblat
And
Ruth Adams
At Pugwash,

“Pugwash”
Native American: pagwechk – shallow waters
Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

An Innovative ‘Transnational Organization’

- People in individual capacities
- Non-attribution (Chatham House rules)
- People with access to corridors of power
- Scientific integrity
Nobel Peace Prize 1995

To Pugwash and to Joseph Rotblat

“for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and in the longer run to eliminate such arms.”
PROFESSOR PUGWASH
THE MAN WHO FOUGHT NUKES

The Life of
Sir Joseph Rotblat

KIT HILL
with a Foreword by
Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal, PRS
www.pugwash.org

www.pugwashhistory.blogspot.com

Official historian: Sandy Butcher